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CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 20 May 1949

TO :
FROM :
SUBJECT: Kravchenko Trial Record
REF :

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. There is enclosed a copy of a report submitted by concerning the German translation of the Kravchenko trial record and its potential operational use.

2. My purpose in bringing this to your attention is to keep you advised of progress made here in handling this material. Presently we have not reached any final conclusion concerning its operational use, although it does appear questionable now that we ^{will be} ~~are~~ able to make use of the translation in any published form.

3. I will inform you as soon as possible of our final recommendations.

This document is part of a series
of documents from the Kravchenko
subject to individual systematic review.

Encl:
Copy Kravchenko Trial record

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27 April 1949.

Subject : Kravchenko Trial record

To :

1. In compliance with your instructions, I had the marked passages of subject record translated from the original French into German and obtained a manuscript of approximately 24,000 words. After close study of that manuscript as well as of the original record, I concluded that this translation alone, even after proper editing, is not of sufficient interest for our purposes, but would have to be set into a proper "frame", which can be built only by utilizing the entire record as well as newspaper accounts and possibly the already mentioned Paris book on the trial.

2. Today, I discussed subject with [] he undertook to study the German-language manuscript, but whose knowledge of the French language is not sufficient to go to work on the original record. He will give me his opinion on said manuscript and make whatever additional suggestions he may have to offer, on 11 May.

3. Since it is obviously impossible to have the entire record - several thousand pages - translated, the only remaining possibilities appear to be :

- a) either to combine the translated excerpts with the Paris book mentioned and with whatever newspaper reports on the trial may be made available
- b) or to drop the project altogether and to return the original record to HQ.

4. The main objection against the translation of the marked passages is that this is a collection of scattered testimony, mostly presented by rather simple-minded witnesses, which adds little to the general knowledge of conditions in the Soviet Union and is not likely to impress readers in the target area. Only a presentation of the trial as a whole, characterizing the communist methods of slandering Kravchenko, then hiding behind anonymity, terrorizing witnesses etc., might add something to the effect which the book by Kravchenko, published in a German edition and much reprinted in German newspapers, has already had.

This document is part of an integrated file. If separated from the file it must be subjected to individual systematic review.

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5. It would be highly desirable if the book from Paris would be in my hands on/or before 11 May (see para 2 above). I shall also appreciate if any further instructions from you could reach me to that date.

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